

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3012

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Charlie Dent
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
HVC-227, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dent and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz:

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the health and well-being of our nation's veterans. Our veterans have made great sacrifices to ensure the safety and best interests of our nation. Your support of our nation's great men and women is sincerely appreciated. We believe that the Committee's past support goes a long way to help save lives and hope to build on its success.

We know that you share our deep concern about the high rate at which veterans are committing suicide. As you balance a number of competing interests in preparing the final appropriations for FY 2019, we ask that you consider the recent study conducted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs which found that the annual suicide rate among veterans remains unacceptably high at roughly 22% higher than the civilian rate for individuals with similar demographic profiles. The suicide rate among middle-age and older veterans remains exceptionally high; in 2014, approximately 65 percent of veterans who committed suicide were 50 years or older.

Providing funding for programs that offer suicide prevention counseling and peer-to-peer outreach services has made a dramatic difference in the lives of many veterans. Continuing support for such programs is vital to reducing suicides among our service members. Accordingly, we ask that you support funding of at least \$190 million in FY 2019 for veteran suicide prevention and outreach programs.


Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress


FRANK A. LOBIONDO
Member of Congress



ELIZABETH H. ESTY
Member of Congress



JOYCE BEATTY
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



ROSA DELAURO
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress




MIKE DOYLE
Member of Congress




DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
Member of Congress



BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress



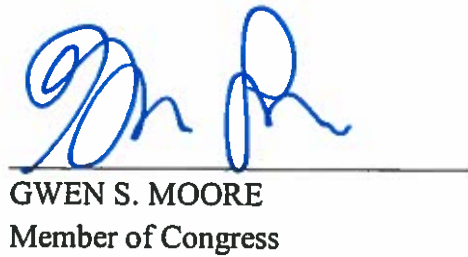
JUAN VARGAS
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RON KIND
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MIKE THOMPSON
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AL LAWSON
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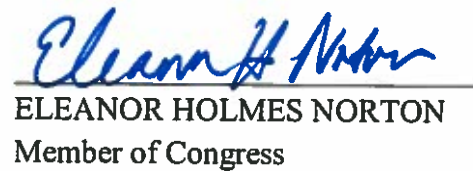

GWEN S. MOORE
Member of Congress

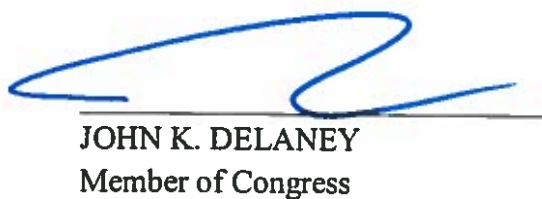

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DONALD NORCROSS
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JIMMY PANETTA
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CHELLIE PINGREE
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DINA TITUS
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TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



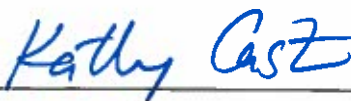
YVETTE D. CLARKE
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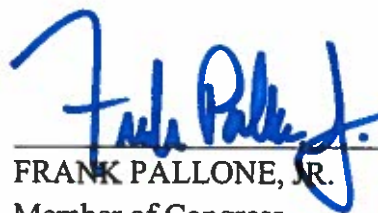
LOIS FRANKEL
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MIKE BOST
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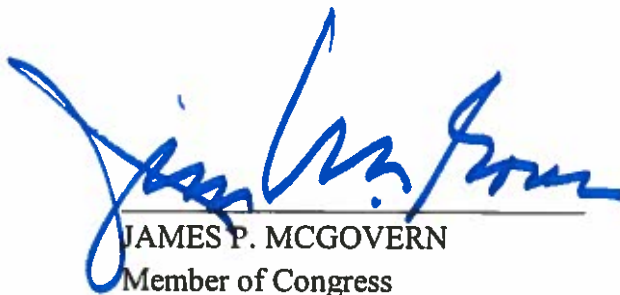
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LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
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STEVE PEARCE
Member of Congress



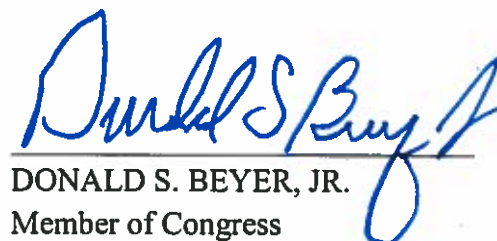
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CAROL SHEA-PORTER
Member of Congress



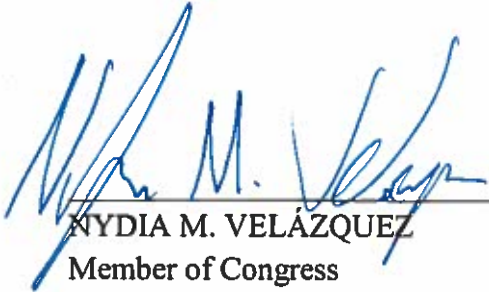
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KATHLEEN M. RICE
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LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress



NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ
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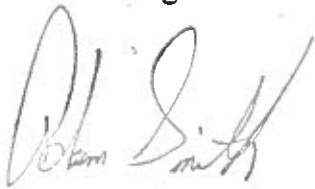
ERIC SWALWELL
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TIM WALZ
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JOSH GOTTHEIMER
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ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



TED LIEU
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



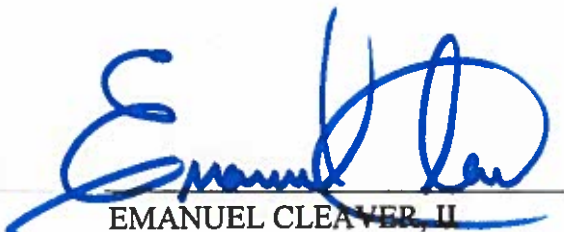
JACKY ROSEN
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KEITH ELLISON
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JOHN LEWIS
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BRIAN HIGGINS
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KYRSTEN SINEMA
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EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
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Member of Congress



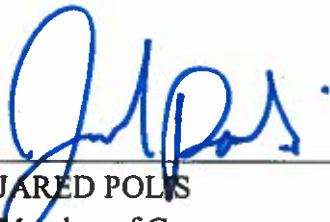
ALMA ADAMS
Member of Congress



MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress



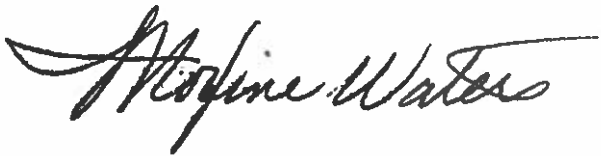
RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS
Member of Congress



CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress



STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress



MICHAEL CAPUANO
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sheila Jackson Lee", written over a horizontal line.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tony Cardenas", written over a horizontal line.

TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tom MacArthur", written over a horizontal line.

TOM MACARTHUR
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Judy Chu", written over a horizontal line.

JUDY CHU
Member of Congress